

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT

SUBJECT Production of Antibiotics and Experimentation in Blood Plasma Substitutes

DATE DISTR. 8 November 1955

NO. OF PAGES 2 25X1

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES 25X1

DATE ACQUIRED

This is UNEVALUATED  
Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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Production of Antibiotics

1. Penicillin and streptomycin produced at the Rostoky plant is of a very inferior quality.<sup>1</sup> To date they have not succeeded in making streptomycin crystals at this plant. The streptomycin is frozen to 48 degrees Celsius and then put under vacuum, dried, and finally reduced to a powder. This powder is very much inferior to the streptomycin crystals produced in the United States. Experiments in producing aureomycin have so far attained no positive results. The annual production of penicillin at the Rostoky plant is estimated to be 100 billion units. This plant has six tanks of ten thousand liters capacity each.

2. Some penicillin is produced at the Biogema plant.<sup>2</sup> there are any other plants producing penicillin or streptomycin in the country.

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3. The domestic production of penicillin is not adequate for Czech needs. Czechoslovakia imports large quantities of penicillin. Streptomycin is imported mainly from the USSR. Aureomycin and terramycin come mainly from the USSR.

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Chloromycin is produced in sufficient quantities synthetically for Czech needs.

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Experimentation in Blood Plasma Substitutes

4. Substitutes for blood plasma are not currently being produced by the Czechs. There has been experimentation in this field but it has been unsuccessful to date.<sup>3</sup> Dextran, the synthetic blood plasma, has not been produced successfully in the Rostoky plant nor in the Institute for Hematology of Charles University. These attempts have been completely unsuccessful.

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5. Since there is no synthetic blood plasma substitute available, whole blood must be used.

6. Whole blood is collected at various collection stations throughout the country and is separated into plasma and blood cells. The plasma is sent by truck to Rostoky. There the plasma is made into a powder and preserved by freezing it and storing it in a vacuum.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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1.  **Comment:** The present name of this plant as given in the telephone directory is Penicilin n.p., savody na vyrobu antibiotik a susene krevni plasmy v Rostokach u Prahy.
2.  **Comment:** The present name of this plant is Biogema n.p., zavod pro vyrobu ser a ockovacich latek, Praha (Prague).
3.  **Comment:** Experimentation in substitutes for blood plasma have ~~concluded~~ **concluded** at the Rostaky plant since 1949, at the initiative of the army.  these experiments were unsuccessful up to 1953.

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